

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 22, 23, 37, 38, 40 and 41 were rejected, claims 7-21, 25-36 and 42-55 were allowed, and claims 3, 24, and 39 were objected to. By the present Response, claims 1, 22, 37 are amended and claims 3, 24, 39 are canceled. The Applicants respectfully note that subject matter canceled or removed by the present amendments is canceled or removed without prejudice for possible inclusion in a continuation application. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1, 2, 4-23, 25-38, and 40-55 will remain pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

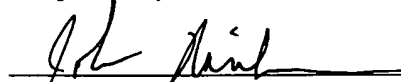
In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated the allowability of claims 3, 24, and 39 if rewritten in independent form. In view of this indication, the Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 22, and 37 to recite what is believed to be the presently allowable subject matter of claims 3, 24, and 39, respectively. If, however, the Examiner does not agree that independent claims 1, 22, and 37, as amended, are in condition for allowance, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the number below to discuss placing claims 1, 22, and 37 in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,


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